

Love in Action Is Right Action - Unity of Faiths Symposium

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We are called upon to address this symposium on how the teachings of our religions by teaching Right Action advocates a caring and loving society. The simplest and the briefest introduction I can offer you regarding what I am going to tell you may be summed up as ' Buddhist teachings are human in origin, delivered by an Enlightened Human Being to fellow humans for their weal and welfare, and that though these teachings date back to more than two and half millennia, there has never been the need to update their contents by subsequent prophets or disciples.

The current trend in the world today towards unity of faiths is something very welcome. As we scan through the pages of world history, we discover it to be undoubtedly long overdue. For the lack of it, we have everywhere paid very high prices, suffered very heavy losses. Human arrogance has led us in the direction of forgetting too soon the wounds inflicted and the scars they leave behind after we indulge in glorifying religious wars, by whatever camouflaging names we choose to call them. Bitter evils of war are soon forgotten, as we open more and more bottles champagne at the battle front itself, several world leaders getting together in one place at supersonic speed. Ethnic, political and religious identities which fool people across the continents to join hands in such frays act the cocaine to obliterate the pains of war.

It is the men below here, on this terra firma, who start the wars. It is not the gods above. The gods are shamelessly dragged down both to champion and to endorse what these mortals in their sheer stupidity do. In their own vanity, one or many gods above are ardently believed to be supporting such genocidal activities. It has today become a gang robbery, one religious group waging war to

overrun the other, the divine and the humans as it were, acting together in connivance. Look around the world today, and you will not fail to see proof of it. May be there are slight shades of difference in different places, the religious giving way to ethnic or the ethnic giving way to political disagreements. Evidence of such massive genocidal lunatic activities, from the so-called more developed and civilized countries, not necessarily of the third world, come to light, only long after the events.